

**IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1 – 16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A converting apparatus for converting content into a predetermined format, comprising:

a memory for receiving and for storing the content and a content-information signal concerning the content from a contents server; ~~said content and said content information signal being recorded in said contents server in advance of reception by said memory;~~

first obtaining means for obtaining information on a format suitable for a terminal; and

converting means for converting the content into the format suitable for said terminal based on the content-information signal and said information obtained by said first obtaining means;

wherein the content-information signal includes coding difficulty information indicating a coding difficulty of the content,

wherein said coding difficulty is a function of a sum of a difficulty of each segment of the content and a sum of a difficulty of each sequence of the content; and

said converting means converts the content based on the coding difficulty information.

18. (Original) A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the coding difficulty information includes information indicating a motion compensation difficulty of the content.

19. (Original) A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the coding difficulty information includes a parameter indicating inter-frame correlation of the content.

20. (Original) A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the coding difficulty information includes a search range of a motion regarding motion compensation of the content.

21. (Original) A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the coding difficulty information includes information indicating a compression difficulty of the content in the space domain.

22. (Original) A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the coding difficulty information includes an intra-coding difficulty when each frame of the content is intra-coded.

23. (Original) A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the content-information signal includes the coding difficulty information in segment units, segments being obtained by dividing the content.

24. (Original) A converting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the content-information signal includes normalized coding difficulty information.

25. (Currently Amended) A converting method for converting content into a predetermined format, comprising:

a storing step of receiving the content from a contents server at a memory and storing the content and a content-information signal concerning the content in said memory, ~~said content and said content-information signal being recorded in said contents server in advance of reception by said memory;~~

obtaining step of obtaining information on a format suitable for a terminal; and

a converting step of converting the content into the format suitable for said terminal based on the content-information signal and said information obtained in said obtaining step;

wherein the content-information signal includes coding difficulty information indicating a coding difficulty of the content,

wherein said coding difficulty is a function of a sum of a difficulty of each segment of the content and a sum of a difficulty of each sequence of the content; and

in said converting step, the content is converted based on the coding difficulty information.

26. (Currently Amended) A reading terminal for converting content into a predetermined format and reading the content, comprising:

a first memory for receiving and for storing the content and a content-information signal concerning the content from a contents server, ~~said content and said content information signal being recorded in said contents server in advance of reception by said first memory;~~

a second memory for storing a format suitable for said reading terminal;

converting means for converting the content into the format suitable for said reading terminal based on the content-information signal; and

reading means for reading the converted content;

wherein the content-information signal includes coding difficulty information indicating a coding difficulty of the content,

wherein said coding difficulty is a function of a sum of a difficulty of each segment of the content and a sum of a difficulty of each sequence of the content; and

said converting means converts the content based on the coding difficulty information.

27. (Currently Amended) A reading method for a reading terminal for converting content into a predetermined format and reading the content, the method comprising:

a first storing step of receiving the content from a contents server at a first memory and storing the content and a content-information signal concerning the content in said first memory, ~~said content and said content information signal being recorded in said contents server in advance of reception by said first memory;~~

a second storing step of storing a format suitable for said reading terminal in a second memory;

a converting step of converting the content into [[a]] the format suitable for said reading terminal based on the content-information signal; and

a reading step of reading the converted content;

wherein the content-information signal includes coding difficulty information indicating a coding difficulty of the content,

wherein said coding difficulty is a function of a sum of a difficulty of each segment of the content and a sum of a difficulty of each sequence of the content; and

in said converting step, the content is converted based on the coding difficulty information.